

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Good Advice

By Walter E. Myer

BERNARD BARUCH, one of the greatest of America's elder statesmen, has been called to the White House so many times over a period of years that he has been called "the adviser to Presidents." When, therefore, he turns his attention to youth and advises young people, his words should be carefully studied and his counsel should be heeded. A few days ago Mr. Baruch addressed a youth forum and gave this advice:

"Be polite. Prepare yourself for whatever you are asked to do. Keep yourself tidy. Be cheerful. Don't be envious. Be honest with yourself so you will be honest with others. Be helpful. Interest yourself in your job. Don't pity yourself. Be quick to praise. Be loyal to your friends. Avoid prejudices. Be independent. Interest yourself in politics, and read the newspapers. . . . Always be proud that you are an American."

You would do well to give serious attention to every suggestion in the list. If you are making New Year's resolutions each one might well be included. Take, for example, the first item in the list, "Be polite." Add to this, "Be cheerful." Polite and cheerful! How important these qualities are!

We are living in a time of troubles. War clouds hang darkly in the skies. What dangers lie around the corner we can only guess. At home prices are so high that it is hard to obtain the necessities of life. We do not have enough houses to go around.

Under such circumstances people are worried. They are often irritable, and this makes for added strain and unhappiness. That is why it is so important that you should be courteous and considerate and cheerful in your home, in the school and wherever you may go. Courtesy and cheerfulness will make

life more pleasant for everyone, and what greater service could you render than to be on the side of brightness and good feeling rather than worry, gloom, and annoyance?

Mr. Baruch advises that you interest yourself in your job. Your job



Walter E. Myer

is that of a student. Make good in the work you are doing. That might well be one of your goals for 1949. If you make good as a student you will be moving toward success later.

One who knows anything about the great problems which face our country should not hesitate in his resolution to become interested in politics, to read newspapers and magazines, and in every possible way prepare himself for good citizenship. It is hard to do this because the problems of this age are extremely complex and confusing, but the more perplexing they are, the greater is the need for serious study.

Remember, as you go down the list of Baruch's suggestions, that the man who is advising you is a man of wealth and power and public spirit, a national leader who has advised six presidents of the United States. His words of counsel deserve serious attention.



ENOUGH to make a big man feel small

THOMAS IN DETROIT NEWS

New Congress Meets

Lawmakers Prepare To Consider Many Problems Important to Our Own Country and to the Rest of the World

THE 81st Congress begins its work today, January 3. It must decide what to do about a number of important national and foreign problems. Before it takes up these issues, however, it must get organized for the job.

The Democrats, as a result of their victory in the November election, will control both houses of Congress. The present line-up in the House of Representatives is as follows: 263 Democrats, 171 Republicans, and 1 American Laborite. In the Senate, there are 54 Democrats and 42 Republicans.

Both branches of Congress and both major parties in Congress are organized along similar lines. The Democrats in the House of Representatives—being in the majority—elect the Speaker. As presiding officer, he keeps order while sessions are going on, recognizes those who wish to speak, and enforces the rules of the House.

The Speaker is a representative himself, and if he wishes he may ask someone to take over his duties temporarily while he engages in a particular debate. Sam Rayburn of Texas, who held this post from 1940 to 1947, is almost certain to be chosen for it in the new House of Representatives.

The presiding officer in the Senate is the Vice President of the United States. He keeps order, recognizes members who wish to speak, sees that discussion proceeds according to par-

liamentary rules, and votes in the case of a tie. When he is absent, his place is taken by a senator who is known as the president "pro tempore" (for the time being).

Alben Barkley of Kentucky, the new Vice President, may not preside over the Senate much of the time. Whether true or not, it is reported that President Truman plans to give Barkley some important administrative tasks. In the past, the duties of the Vice President have been mostly routine and inconsequential. He ordinarily has not had nearly as great influence in the Senate as the Speaker has had in the House. President Truman, it is said, intends to change this situation.

In each branch of Congress, a majority and a minority floor leader are chosen by the members of their parties. Their job is to manage important debates and to hold their parties together on important issues. Private party meetings, known as caucuses, are held to determine the stand the party will take on any important matter, and the floor leaders try to keep members from breaking away from the decision of the caucus.

Certain senators and representatives are selected to help the floor leaders keep party members in line. These persons are known as whips. One of their chief tasks is to secure the attendance of as many members

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Progress Made Under the ERP

Production in Countries Being Aided Has Increased, but Problems Remain

BETWEEN now and the first of April, members of Congress will make a careful study of the European Recovery Program—or Marshall Plan as it is popularly known. They want to know whether the sum of five billion dollars already made available to countries of western Europe is being carefully spent; and whether the program's major goal—the rebuilding of western Europe—is being accomplished. Our legislators also want to know how well the plan is succeeding in holding back the tide of communism on the continent.

These questions, and many others concerning the program, must be answered as Congress plans how much money should be set aside for the program's second year. In the remainder of this article, we shall discuss, in question-and-answer form, the origin of the Marshall Plan and its operation up to now. This discussion will enable our readers to follow congressional action on the matter with understanding.

1. How did the Marshall Plan originate?

In June of 1947, U. S. Secretary of State George Marshall urged that the countries of Europe outline their needs for permanent recovery as well as for temporary assistance. Even before that time, the United States had granted large-scale financial aid to Europe, but most of the money had been used for relief purposes.

Leaders of European nations quickly took up Secretary Marshall's suggestion, and committees were appointed by our government to see how much we could afford to make available without crippling ourselves. By April, 1948, preliminary plans had been made, and Congress had passed the

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SWEIGERT IN SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

UN Amazon Project

Scientists Are Making Thorough Study of the Mighty River Basin to Plan for Agricultural and Industrial Development

ONE of the most far-sighted projects of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is its plan for the study and development of the Amazon River Basin. It is carrying out its program through an agency known as the International Institute of the Amazon.

UNESCO and the Amazon nations of South America believe that if man can take advantage of the natural resources of this vast region, not only South America but the whole world will benefit. They feel that the Amazon can support a large population of



A STREAM that flows into the Amazon

its own and also can provide many products needed by other parts of the world. It has been said that "if the Amazon could be brought into food production, the world could feed its population."

The nations most interested in the Amazon Institute are the six South American countries into which the mighty Amazon River system extends—Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela. Also cooperating in the program are the British, Dutch, and French Guianas. Although these colonies are not part of the Amazon basin, their lands border the region and are similar to it.

Funds for the first year of the Amazon Institute have been provided by UNESCO and by these nine nations. Preliminary work has already begun. Groups of scientists are busy gathering together all known facts about this area of the world and are carrying out preparations for a thorough exploration of the region.

The first white man sailed up the Amazon River some 450 years ago. Yet, today, it is still one of the least known parts of the world. What facts are known about it, however, support UNESCO's opinion that it is a very rich region. The part of the basin which extends into Venezuela and Peru is known to contain oil, and petroleum companies have been exploring the area for other deposits. In fact, the Amazon is believed to have almost as large mineral deposits as has the United States.

The rich soil, tropical climate, and heavy rainfall of the Amazon enable it to produce a wide variety of crops. (The rainfall is from 100 to 200 inches a year, or about five times the amount that falls in northeastern United States.) Without any effort on the part of man, the Amazon region already produces rubber, dyewoods, timber trees, fibers, and palm oil. With proper cultivation, cotton, rice, sugar, cocoa, and other products could be grown.

Everything about the Amazon River system is on a grand scale. The main river flows along the Equator for

about 4,000 miles, from high in the Peruvian Andes across Brazil to the Atlantic Ocean. Seagoing vessels can travel for 2,300 miles of its length. The average width of the Amazon is from two to six miles, and at its mouth it measures about 200 miles across. The island of Marajo, at the mouth of the river, is as large as Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island combined.

Some 200 branches and tributaries bring tons of water to the main stream. The water that flows from the mouth of the Amazon in one day could fill a lake 25 miles long, four to five miles wide, and about 100 feet deep. The current is so strong that the muddy Amazon waters are carried many miles out into the ocean.

A large part of the Amazon basin is jungle and swampland criss-crossed by numerous natural canals. In some places the vegetation is so dense that the sunlight cannot reach the ground. Because of this, there are not as many animals as one might expect to find in such a wild region. There are, though, numerous snakes, monkeys, birds, and swarms of insects, and the rivers abound with alligators, turtles, and many kinds of fish.

The entire Amazon basin covers an area almost the size of the United States. Yet in the whole area there are less than a million people. Many of these are native Indians whose way of life is extremely primitive. Transportation in the region must be chiefly by river or airplane, for there are almost no roads, nor are there many cities. The most important one is Manaus, Brazil, which is the base of operations of the Amazon Institute.

In studying the region, scientists are hoping to learn many things from the natives. It is the opinion of most people who know the Amazon that it will be impossible to clear the jungle, in the sense that Europeans cleared the land in North America. A way must be found to live with the jungle, they say, for it is impossible to fight



GATHERING raw rubber in Brazil

against it. The Indians may be able to teach them ways of doing this.

The United Nations group is going into the problem from every angle.

One writer describes in these words the kind of study UN experts will make of the region:

"Scientists will study its climate, weather, plants, foods, the native's living habits and their effect on his body. They will delve into the problem of suitable tropic dwellings and plans for towns. They will explore the prospective wealth in oil, hardwoods, edible river fish, animals and plants. They will find out how travel to and through the Amazon can be linked by river, land, and air in a systematic plan."

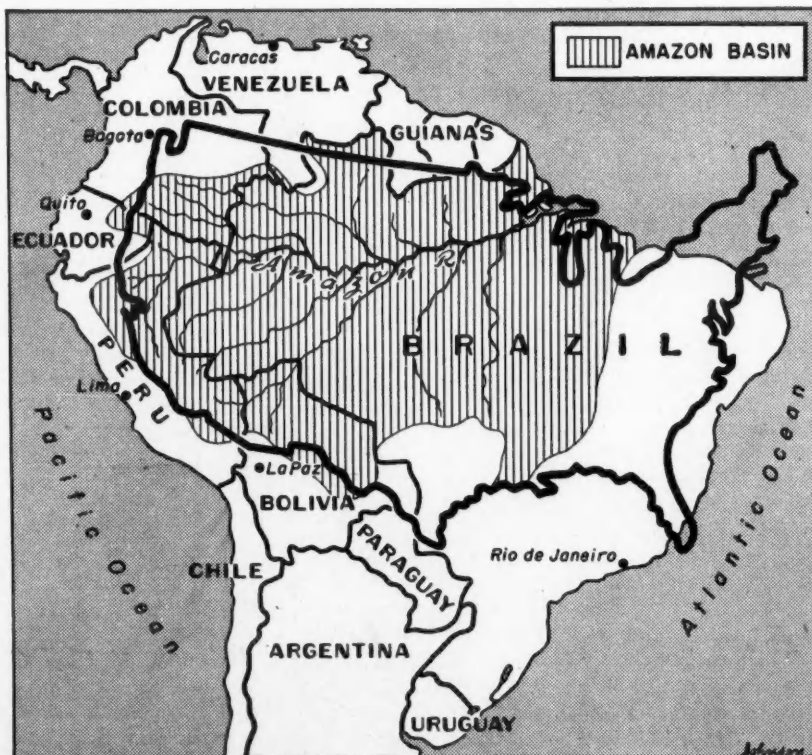
Many years will be required to complete this huge task. It is a job which requires strength and courage, for the scientists who explore the region must face the danger of tropical diseases, wild animals, and hostile Indians. But what these men are able to learn should prove to be of lasting benefit to mankind.

By AMALIE ALVEY.

The United States Capitol is one of the few places where the American flag can be flown day and night. Two flags, one on each side of the Capitol, are never taken down except to replace them with new banners.

A flag is also flown continuously at Fort McHenry, Maryland, where the "Star Spangled Banner" was written, and at the grave of Francis Scott Key, author of our national anthem.

A war memorial in Worcester, Massachusetts, is likewise permitted to fly a flag 24 hours a day.



THE AMAZON RIVER and its drainage area are almost as large as the United States. The shape of the U. S. is in black outline.

1948 Events

THE year 1948 saw many newsworthy events. Among them were the following:

Assassination of Gandhi. The world was shocked late in January by the killing of Mohandas Gandhi, great Indian nationalist leader. His death came only a few months after India had achieved the freedom for which Gandhi had worked so many years.

Berlin Airlift. About the first of April, the United States, Great Britain, and France began to supply their occupation sectors in Berlin by air, following the Soviet government's restrictions on rail and highway traffic into the city.

Italian Elections. In April, Italy held crucial elections in which Premier De Gasperi's middle-of-the-road party won a clear-cut victory over the Communists. The outcome was widely regarded as a triumph for the forces of democracy.

European Recovery Plan. Approximately the same time that Italy held its elections, the U. S. Congress put its final approval on the big foreign aid program. Paul Hoffman was put in charge, and supplies from America started flowing immediately to overseas destinations.

Founding of Israel and Bernadotte's Assassination. In May, Great Britain gave up its 25-year control of the Holy Land, and the Jewish state of Israel came into existence. Fighting broke out between the Palestine and neighboring Arabs, who refused to recognize the new state, and the Jewish troops. Count Bernadotte, Swedish nobleman, was sent to Palestine by the UN to try to bring about peace, and in September was killed by extremists. As the year ended, the Palestine problem was still unsettled.

Tito's Revolt. An open quarrel broke out late in June between Marshal Tito, ruler of Yugoslavia, and the Cominform, the international Communist group which follows the line laid down by Russia. Instead of yielding, Tito stood firm and his relations with Soviet leaders are still strained.

High Cost of Living. Rising prices were in the news throughout 1948. Various proposals were made to check inflation, but the problem remained a serious one as 1948 came to an end.

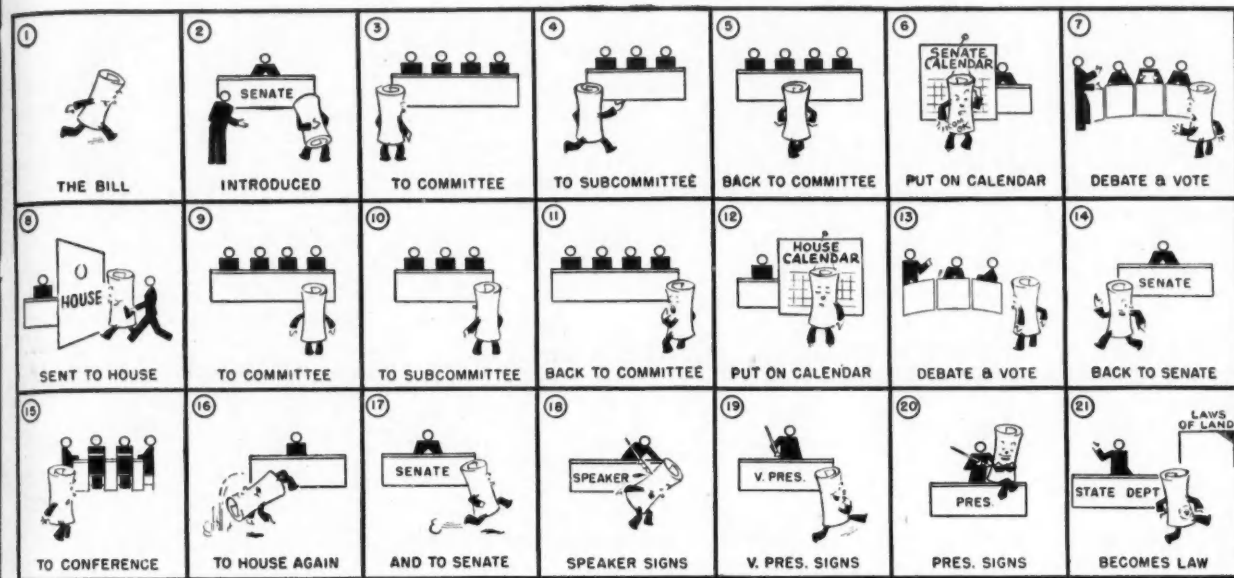
Spy Investigations. Hearings before the House Un-American Activities Committee and other groups attracted wide attention during the year. Charges were made that secret information had been passed on to Soviet agents by former U. S. government officials. Denials were issued, and in most cases both charges and denials proved difficult to verify. The way in which the Un-American Activities Committee handled the cases was also the subject of much controversy.

Presidential Election. To most Americans, the biggest story of 1948 was the presidential election, together with its preliminaries—party primaries, national nominating conventions, campaign speeches, and so on. The victory of Harry Truman on November 2 was made more dramatic by the fact that nearly all newspapers and polling organizations had indicated Thomas Dewey would win the election.

Chinese Civil War. The war in China went badly for the forces of (Concluded on page 3, column 4)

New Congress Gets Ready to Begin Its Work

(Concluded from page 1)



A BILL HAS a long trip after it is introduced in Congress before it can become a law

of their party as possible when a vote on an important bill is to be taken.

These are among the more important positions of leadership in the two branches of Congress. In order to get its work done effectively, each house is divided into a number of committees, some permanent and some temporary. These groups meet in the mornings as a rule, and oftentimes in the afternoons as well. Frequently when a Congressman is absent from the floor of the House or Senate, he is hard at work in a committee.

Most of the important details of new laws are worked out and most of the real debating is done in these committees. It can readily be seen why this is necessary when one realizes that in a recent two-year session of Congress, more than 17,000 bills were introduced.

Naturally, there is not enough time for the full membership of Congress to debate all these measures, so committees sift through them and decide which ones are of sufficient importance to be fully considered. Those which are selected may be studied and debated for weeks. Public hearings may be held by the committee to obtain the views of outsiders.

Great Influence

Thus, the members and chairmen of committees have considerable power. They can decide which bills are to be debated on the floors of Congress and which ones are not. Since the majority party in each house of Congress appoints all the committee chairmen and also has a majority of members on all the committees, it is in a position to decide which laws may or may not be adopted. Consequently, if the Democrats are fairly united on most issues in the new Congress, they will be able to put through the kind of program they desire.

The thousands of bills which are introduced into Congress each session originate in many different ways. Senators and representatives, officials in the executive branch of the government, and even individuals and groups outside the government can prepare the measures. But no matter who drafts or writes a bill, only a senator or a representative can introduce it.

Usually, the source of a particular bill is a person or group in some congressman's home district or state. In-

dividuals and "pressure" groups are constantly offering members of Congress plans for new laws. In many cases, senators and representatives will introduce bills purely for the purpose of satisfying certain groups back home, with no thought that they will ever be passed or seriously considered.

A bill may be started on its journey through Congress either in the House or in the Senate. The only exception is in the case of revenue bills (measures dealing with taxes, which are required by the Constitution to be introduced in the House).

After a bill has been studied and debated for weeks in one house and is finally approved, it must then go through the same process in the other house. If it is changed at all, a special committee of the two branches of Congress must agree upon the changes or work out a compromise. Then the measure has to be voted upon once again by the full membership of both the Senate and the House.

That is why it usually takes such a long time for Congress to enact a law. Even a measure that has wide popular support ordinarily requires a lengthy period before it is adopted.

The present Congress is faced with an enormous amount of business. These are among the more important questions which it will consider:

(a) Should the federal government pass laws to punish lynchers, to eliminate state poll taxes, and to guarantee equal employment opportunities for members of all racial groups? Or should these problems be left to the individual states to handle?

(b) Should government payments for unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, and other social security benefits be increased because of the increase in the cost of living? The payments which were originally agreed upon do not buy nearly as much today as formerly, so the people who depend on these benefits are having a hard time making ends meet.

(c) Is President Truman wise or unwise in wanting the federal government to tax wages and profits for the purpose of collecting money to pay the medical bills of millions of Americans who become ill each year?

(d) Would it be a good or bad policy for the national government to give financial aid to states, so that the poorer ones could provide better

educational opportunities for their youth?

(e) What further steps, if any, should the government take to stimulate the building of more homes and to wipe out slums in our country?

(f) Can the government do anything to bring down prices without leading us into another depression?

(g) In view of the nation's heavy spending and huge debt, should taxes be increased? If so, which groups of the population should bear the brunt of the increase?

(h) When the funds for the European Recovery Program are exhausted in April, how much money should be set aside for this purpose during the following year?

(i) We are now spending about 15 billion dollars a year for military purposes. Is this enough, or should larger funds be approved for the defense of our nation?

(j) Is the Taft-Hartley Labor Act, passed in 1947, unfair to labor unions? Should it be repealed? President Truman answers yes to both questions. Most Republicans and a number of Democrats disagree with him. Can a compromise be worked out on this issue?

There are a number of other vitally important questions before Congress. What policy should we follow in regard to China? What new agricultural measures, if any, should our government adopt? Would it be wise for the United States to join in a defensive alliance with Canada, Great Britain, France, Belgium, the Nether-

lands, and Luxembourg? Are the trade agreements we have with other countries satisfactory, or should they be changed?

As these and other significant problems are discussed in Congress, we shall examine them at length. Moreover, as soon as the floor and committee leaders of Congress are chosen, we shall have personality sketches on them.

1948 Events

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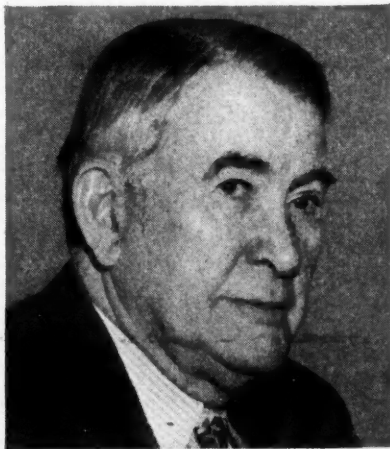
Chiang Kai-shek. The Communist forces swallowed Manchuria, and headed south toward Nanking, China's capital. In December Madame Chiang flew to the United States in a desperate attempt to win further U. S. support for her husband's tottering government. There were growing demands within China for Chiang Kai-shek's resignation and for the formation of a government which would include the Communists.

The stories listed above are but a few of the events which newspaper readers followed in 1948. Many others shared the headlines—such ones, for example, as the Olympic Games in London, the Communist seizure of Czechoslovakia, the leap of an imprisoned Russian school teacher from the window of the Soviet consulate in New York, the death of Babe Ruth, and the birth of a British prince.

The lowest group on the social and economic scale in India is the Hindu "Untouchables." Numbering about 50 million, these people are the outcasts of Indian society. They are allowed to perform only the most humble jobs, and other Hindus shun them.

Recently, the Indian Assembly, which is drawing up a constitution for the Dominion of India, adopted a provision that is designed to improve the lowly position of the Untouchables. The proposed law would make it a crime to discriminate against the Untouchables.

Many observers are comparing this recommendation by the Indian Assembly with our own "Emancipation Proclamation." By means of the Emancipation Proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves. If the proposed Indian law is adopted, it would free the Untouchables from the semi-slavery in which they now live.



ALBEN BARKLEY (left), as the nation's Vice President, presides over the U. S. Senate. Sam Rayburn (right) is almost certain to be Speaker of the House.



HARRIS & EWING

The Story of the Week

Basketball Season

From now until March, basketball will feature the U. S. sports scene. Most teams—both professional and amateur—swung into action before the Christmas recess and will have no let-up for the rest of the season. In basketball's top pro circuit, the member teams will be fighting to earn a place in the league play-offs, while school and college teams will for the most part be competing for the chance to get into post-season tournaments.

Pro basketball's Association of America has been revised this season and now consists of 12 teams, divided into eastern and western divisions. In this circuit—basketball's "big league"—the feature of early season play was the sensational work of the Washington Capitols. The Caps won 15 games in a row before suffering defeat. One of the league's top individual performers is big George Mikan of the Minneapolis Lakers.



BASKETBALL will be in the sports spotlight during the coming weeks

Mikan has made more than 30 points in each of a number of games.

Invented by Dr. James A. Naismith in 1891, basketball is today one of the most popular sports in the world. Dr. Naismith thought of the game while he was physical director at the YMCA college in Springfield, Massachusetts. In those days, indoor exercise during the winter at the "Y" consisted of lifting weights and doing calisthenics. Because there was no competition, it was not much fun.

Dr. Naismith wanted to organize a sport which would provide both exercise and the thrill of competition. The first basketball game was played on January 20, 1892, with a soccer ball serving as a basketball, and peach baskets employed as goals.

Voting Proposal

Since the recent elections, many proposals have been made for inducing more people to vote. The latest suggestion comes from Representative Klein of New York City. Mr. Klein recommends that every citizen who goes to the polls should receive a \$30 reduction on his income tax. He intends to introduce a bill to that effect in this session of Congress.

The congressman contends that such an inducement would encourage many people to vote who would otherwise stay at home during the balloting.

He says that if people will not vote out of patriotism, they might do so out of self-interest. He thinks that his plan would increase the number of ballots cast in national elections.

A number of objections have been made to Mr. Klein's proposal. Some persons say it would be wrong to "bribe" American citizens into voting. Others contend that the \$30 deduction would mean little to people with large incomes and it would mean nothing to those who pay no taxes at all. The latter group also thinks that it is better to have only those vote who value their American citizenship than to offer inducements for voting to large numbers of uninterested and uninformed people.

UN Happenings

Preparations are already under way at Lake Success near New York City for the April meeting of the UN General Assembly. New lighting is being put in, and the headquarters building is being made spick-and-span. The United Nations members will come together at that time to act on business left unfinished at the meeting which ended in France shortly before Christmas.

During the Paris session, the Assembly voted on a number of matters. For example, it set up a conciliation commission—composed of the United States, France, and Turkey—to work out a final settlement of the Palestine problem. It voted to continue the UN "Little Assembly" and the investigating commissions in Greece and Korea, and urged the recognition of the South Korea government in the U. S. occupation zone. The Assembly condemned Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, and Albania for helping the rebels in the civil war that has gone on for so long in Greece.

One problem on which the UN made little headway was the Berlin issue. Although Mr. Bramuglia of Argentina, a Security Council leader, did his best to bring Russia and the United States to see eye-to-eye on the critical matter, his efforts were not very successful and, at this writing, the Berlin blockade continues. During December the Soviet government made further efforts to get control of the entire city, but the western powers con-



"JOAN OF ARC," starring Ingrid Bergman, is one of the season's outstanding movies

tinued to stand firm on their declaration that they will not be driven from the former German capital.

Scrap Metal

The United States is again making an effort to collect large quantities of scrap metal for use by our steel mills. The Department of Commerce is looking for scrap metal supplies in foreign nations and is planning to conduct a national "scrap drive" here similar to the ones held during the war.

Steel plants use a great deal of scrap because it is a cheaper "raw material" than iron ore. The latter must undergo many more processes than does scrap metal before it can be used in making steel products.

The present need for scrap metal is caused by the fact that we used up most of our supply before and during World War II. In the 1930's, we sold great quantities of scrap to Japan and other countries. During the war, we increased our own use of scrap.

Costa Rican Revolt

The recent uprising in Costa Rica is one of several revolts which have disturbed Latin America in the past year. Other countries in which revolutions previously occurred include Colombia, Venezuela, and Peru. In most of these lands, the uprisings were

launched by groups that had not been able to get into power legally and so resorted to force.

The Costa Rican affair is attracting particular interest because it marks the first time that the Treaty of Rio de Janeiro has been invoked. Under the terms of that agreement, drawn up in 1947, the Western Hemisphere republics signing it agreed to come to the defense of any one of them that was attacked.

When the conflict first broke out in Costa Rica, the government claimed that the rebels planned and carried out their plot from Nicaragua. It therefore argued that the uprising was more than a "civil war"—that it came within the provisions of the Rio pact.

The other signers of the Rio Treaty acted quickly to try to get the facts in the case but, at this writing, the affair is still unsettled. The way in which it is handled may have far-reaching effects, for it may set a precedent for future cases of a similar nature and may determine the effectiveness of the Rio Treaty. Our country is a member of this defensive pact and, along with other member nations, is working to make it a success.

College Scholarships

A group of American educators is recommending that Congress pass a bill that would provide 200,000 to 250,000 scholarships a year for high school graduates. Under their proposal, the scholarships would range in value from \$400 to \$1,000 and would be awarded to students with outstanding records. One of the requirements for winning a scholarship may be that applicants pass special competitive examinations.

If Congress adopts the proposal, students who win the scholarships will be free to attend any accredited college they wish and to take any course they desire. To qualify for scholarships for the second, third and fourth years, they would have to prove themselves worthy of continued aid by doing good work.

The details of the scholarship program are being drawn up by the National Education Association. But almost all leading educators have agreed for a long time that some kind of assistance should be given to high school



CHIANG CHING-KUO, son of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek of China (right), has been taking part in tank warfare against the Communists in his country

graduates who deserve a college education but cannot afford one. They hope the proposed program will be adopted by Congress.

This proposal, of course, is not to be confused with the suggested bill for "federal aid to education." The latter measure would provide assistance to elementary and high schools rather than to individuals.

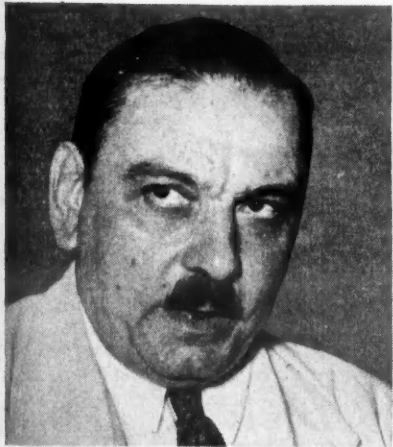
Troubled Asia

As 1949 comes in, eastern Asia looms as one of the world's principal trouble spots. Events there will bear close watching in the coming months.

China, of course, is commanding the most attention at this time. The present crisis has been building up for some years, and the situation now appears to be moving rapidly to a climax. No one can say what new turn the developments in that troubled land will take, but 1949 may see the situation there clarified.

The Netherlands East Indies continues to be another serious trouble spot. Last month the Dutch government announced that it was giving up its attempts to negotiate with the native Republic of Indonesia and is going ahead to set up an East Indies government of its own. This decision, it is feared in some quarters, may open the way for more warfare such as took place in the Indies between 1945 and 1947.

Other places in eastern Asia where conditions remain unsettled include Korea and French Indo-China. The division of Korea into U. S. and Soviet occupation zones continues, while the



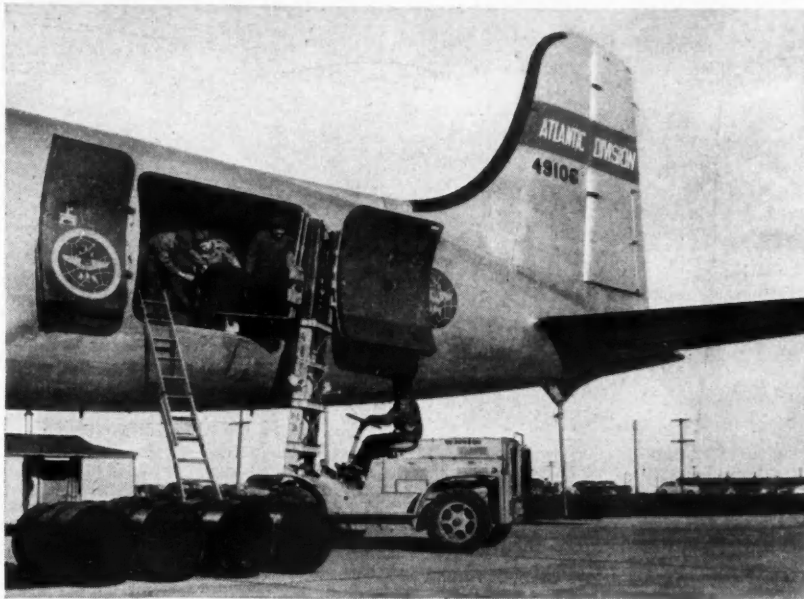
LUIS MUNOZ MARIN, Governor of Puerto Rico

long struggle between French colonial troops and certain native groups in Indo-China drags on.

Progress in Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico is beginning to achieve self-government under Uncle Sam's guidance. For the first time since it was taken over by the United States 50 years ago, the Caribbean island has a governor elected by its people and a cabinet made up entirely of natives. This U. S. territory is making progress in other matters, too. It has increased its foreign trade, and has built many new industries. Sugar provides the island with its chief income.

Despite these advances, it is agreed that there is still much room for progress in Puerto Rico. For example, the income of the average family is still very low, and the medical care is inadequate for most of the people.



AIRMEN are trained at the Great Falls Air Force Base in Montana to replace the men who are flying supplies to the western section of Berlin

There is only one doctor for every 4,000 persons, whereas most medical authorities agree there should be one doctor for every 1,000 people.

The American government will continue to work closely with Puerto Rican leaders to improve conditions on the island and to provide greater opportunities for a better life.

Good Listening

A program in which young people discuss government problems and other issues of the day is "Youth Asks the Government." Usually originating in Washington, D. C., it is heard over ABC stations on Tuesday, 8:00 to 8:15 P.M. (Eastern Standard Time).

Each week several teen-aged youths question a government leader or hold a discussion among themselves on a question of timely interest. John Edwards, ABC commentator, introduces the guests and serves as moderator during the discussion period. The program is unrehearsed and informal, and the participants usually show a wide range of opinion concerning the subject presented for discussion.

Among the guests in recent weeks have been Norris Dodd, head of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, Justin Miller, a member of the government's Advisory Commission on Information, and Brooks Hays, an Arkansas congressman. Subjects on recent programs have included the Voice of America broadcasts, federal aid to education, and citizenship training in the schools.

Tomorrow evening the program, which is about to complete its second year on the air, will present another prominent figure in our government and a group of young people.

Industry in West

Many new factories are being built in the Far West and the Southwest. More workers are now employed there than ever before in peacetime.

Two main reasons are given for the growing industrial importance of the states on the West Coast and in the area between southern California and Texas. One stems from the fact that many new plants were built there during the war. These attracted large

numbers of "outside" workers and their families, who remained in those sections after the conflict ended. Now various companies are establishing more factories there to take care of the increased business brought about by the growth in population.

The other cause for the industrial expansion in these areas is that more and more industries are deciding to "decentralize"—that is, to spread their plants throughout the country rather than concentrate them in one region. It is believed that in another war, widely distributed factories would be less subject to attack than would plants located in a few heavily concentrated areas.

State Department

Many of our State Department employees are undergoing special training to make them better equipped to handle our relations with foreign countries. The program is conducted by the Department's Foreign Service

THE LIGHTER SIDE

"Excuse me, but we can't hear a word," protested a theater patron annoyed by the conversation of a couple in the row behind.

"Well," snapped the woman member of the disturbing pair, "what we're talking about is none of your business."

★ ★ ★

On the salary receipts given to the employees of a bank is this statement: "Your salary is your confidential business and should not be discussed."

A young man, signing his receipt, added, "I won't mention it. I'm as ashamed of it as you are."

★ ★ ★

"The only difference between you and a mule is that a mule wears a collar."

"But I wear a collar, too."

"Then I was mistaken; there's no difference."

★ ★ ★

Fond Mother: "What did your teacher think of your playing of the 'Morning, Noon, and Night' Overture, Son?"

Son: "After I'd played a few bars he told me to call it a day."

★ ★ ★

Judge: "Now what have you to say for yourself?"

Motorist: "I wish I was where there are no traffic cops."

Judge: "Granted. Thirty days for speeding."

Institute, which was set up by Congress in 1946 and is located in Washington, D. C.

At the Foreign Service Institute, members of the State Department staff may learn foreign languages, study the social and economic problems of a certain country, or obtain information about an issue that is of particular importance at the moment. In some cases, members may be sent to American or foreign universities to complete the training begun at the Institute.

Those who attend the State Department's "school" may be newcomers to the Department or experienced members of the agency's Foreign Service. The latter may return to the United States for the sole purpose of taking special courses under Institute teachers.

Of course, most members of the State Department received some kind of instruction in their work before 1946, but the training is now better organized and more extensive and modeled on the best universities.

Outstanding Film

The story of one of the most famous heroines in history has been brought to the screen in the new RKO film, "Joan of Arc." Ingrid Bergman plays the part of the French country girl who, in a time of national crisis, came forth to don armor and lead the armies of France to victory. Filmed in technicolor, the picture follows the career of the Maid of Orleans through her greatest triumphs until, at the age of 19, she falls into the hands of her country's enemies and dies at the stake.

Miss Bergman gives a fine portrayal of the title character, and is supported by an excellent cast. One of the high spots of the movie is the battle scene in which the siege of Orleans is lifted. The entire film catches the color and pageantry of 15th century France with remarkable faithfulness.

"Why do you think his book is a success?"

"Because people who haven't read it are beginning to say they have."

★ ★ ★

I never saw a vitamin;
I never expect to see one.
But to put it rather bluntly,
Would I rather C or B-1?

★ ★ ★

Postmaster: "I'm sorry, but I can't cash this money order for you unless you have some identification. Have you some friend in camp?"

Soldier: "Not me. I'm the bugler."



"Darling, I want you to meet my boss"

Europe's Recovery Progress

(Concluded from page 1)

"Foreign Assistance Act" which established the European Recovery Program (ERP) as a working reality.

2. What are the principal points of the program?

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1948 provides that the United States will aid the nations of Europe with a view to making them independent by the middle of 1952. Funds provided by our government are to be used to rebuild and expand the production of farms and factories in the countries taking part in the program.

These countries, though, are not to depend entirely upon the United States. In order to receive aid, they must promise to work together as a team—to carry on as much business and trade with one another as possible.

The Act provides several safeguards for the United States. Limitations have been put on the amounts of certain goods that can be bought under the program in our country—goods that are scarce in the United States. Petroleum, for instance, is to be bought elsewhere; and the amounts of American farm machinery, fertilizer, iron, and other specified materials that can be purchased are limited.

Materials to U. S.

As a direct benefit to the United States, the Act provides that the countries participating in the plan ship us certain "strategic" materials which we do not have in great quantities—natural rubber, copper, lead, sisal, and industrial diamonds, for example.

3. Who administers the program, and how do the countries actually get aid?

The Marshall Plan, or European Recovery Program, is carried out by a government agency in Washington, D. C., especially set up for the purpose. The agency is the Economic Cooperation Administration, or ECA. Paul Hoffman is at its head, and Averell Harriman is its chief representative in Europe.

ECA does not buy goods itself and distribute them to the countries. Instead, the plan works in this way: Each nation prepares a list of the products it wants for its farms and factories—machinery, leather, cotton yarn, lumber, fertilizer, zinc, flaxseed, and so on.

This list is then sent to ECA in Washington where it is checked very carefully. Our government wants to be sure that the materials are to be

used for reconstruction. If the list is approved, ECA gives the foreign country certain certificates which represent money. That nation's officials then "shop around" to see where they can buy the approved items at the best price. They may get them in this country, or they may buy them from other nations. When the purchases are made, the certificates are given to the merchants or manufacturers who provide the goods. They, in turn, give the certificates to our government and receive dollars for the sale.

4. How much money has been spent under the program, and for what has it been used?

Approximately four billion dollars have been made available to the nations of western Europe since the plan went into effect, and by the first of April another billion will have been spent. The sum has been divided among 14 nations of western Europe, and aid has also gone to the occupied zones of western Germany and to Trieste. Great Britain has received about 30 per cent of the money and France about 25 per cent. Two of the nations participating in the program—Portugal and Switzerland—have not yet asked for direct help.

During the early months of the Marshall Plan more than half of the money allotted to the countries was used for food and other agricultural products. More recently, though, the emphasis has shifted and the countries are buying increased quantities of machinery and raw materials for industrial use. Because of this fact, Mr. Hoffman says that the program's "relief phase has been passed, and the recovery phase is on the upswing."

5. How well is the program working?

Most observers believe that western Europe has made substantial progress since the Marshall Plan went into effect. To uphold their statements they point to the production figures for the area. Over-all output of industrial goods is up 12 per cent above last year; electric power is up 10 per cent; steel is up 27 per cent; and the production of food has increased by 25 per cent. Great Britain alone is manufacturing 24 per cent more goods than she did a year ago.

These observers also point to a second accomplishment that they say may be credited to the program. It is the "new spirit of cooperation that has come to Europe." As pointed out



PAUL HOFFMAN testifies before a committee. He is director of the Economic Cooperation Administration—the agency that is supervising the European Recovery Program.

earlier in this article, to receive aid the nations must make an effort to help one another and to encourage international trade. The national rivalries and competition that have grown through the centuries have not, of course, been wiped out in one year, but progress is being made.

A third result of the program, its supporters say, is the fact that communist expansion on the continent has been slowed down. While agitation by Communists in Italy and France still creates serious problems, most observers believe that these nations, and perhaps others, might now be under Russian domination if it had not been for the aid they have received under the Marshall Plan.

Opposing Views

A few persons disagree with this appraisal of the recovery program. They say that communism is growing in strength and that some people in Europe are no better off now than they were before the program was started. Congress and the American public will have a chance to decide whether or not these persons are right as the program is discussed during the coming months.

6. Why does Russia oppose the Marshall Plan?

When Secretary of State Marshall first suggested an over-all recovery program for Europe, he emphasized the fact that U. S. policy was "directed not against any country or doctrine, but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos." Because of this statement Russia took part in early meetings to discuss the proposal. Soon, though, Russian representatives withdrew from the project, and from that

time on Soviet leaders have actively tried to defeat the program.

Russian opposition, it is believed, comes from the fact that, if the program succeeds, it will lessen the Soviet Union's chances to dominate the continent. Communism thrives best where there is poverty and economic disorder. So long as western Europe failed to recover from the war, there was a strong possibility that the people would, in desperation, turn to the Communists for leadership. Supporters of the recovery program firmly believe that each new shipment of goods into Europe and each new increase in production there reduces the extent of communist influence.

7. What are some of the problems that lie ahead of ECA?











No one connected with the European Recovery Program will claim that any one of its goals has been entirely reached. In spite of the real evidence of progress, it must be said that there is still much to be done.

Production in western Europe must be further increased. Still greater efforts to cooperate must be made by the countries participating in the plan than have been made up to now. And ways must be found to lessen the influence of communist opposition.

There are also many other problems that must be worked out during the coming months. Recently, for instance, ECA officials claimed that certain European nations were reselling goods bought under the program to U. S. businessmen. The countries immediately denied the charges, but a thorough study of the situation must be made. It is argued, too, that people in some of the nations are not doing as much as they can to help themselves—and this presents another serious issue.

Meanwhile, though, the most important problem for the immediate future is for persons connected with ECA to demonstrate to Congress, and to the public, that the progress made thus far justifies a continuation of the program. The Foreign Assistance Act calls for aid to be extended through the middle of 1952. Congress, however, reserved the right to study the program each year to see whether or not it should be continued, and the lawmakers must appropriate funds for the program on an annual basis.

There seems to be little doubt that the Marshall Plan will be continued. The main question Congress will consider is how much should be appropriated for ECA during the months immediately in the future.

BREAD GRAINS  \$698,862,900	COTTON  \$258,917,595	MACHINERY  \$98,937,400	PETROLEUM  \$365,821,386	COAL  \$207,268,739
METALS  \$333,011,900	CHEMICALS  \$96,566,451	LUMBER  \$49,836,546	DAIRY PRODUCTS  \$70,651,126	FOOD FATS  \$170,997,844

THIS CHART SHOWS how much has been spent on various products under the European Recovery Program

NEW YORK TIMES

Readers Say—

I heartily agree with the proposal of Senator McMahon of Connecticut that the United Nations operate its own radio station and publish its own newspaper. In this way, the UN would be able to inform the world of what it is trying to do and create a truly international spirit among all peoples. The UN would also be able to acquaint the inhabitants of the countries behind Russia's "Iron Curtain" with the true facts concerning controversial issues.

THOMASINE BROWN,
Valley City, North Dakota.

★ ★ ★

As a subscriber to THE AMERICAN OBSERVER for the second consecutive year, I should like to make a suggestion on how to use it to the greatest advantage. My idea is to save the paper after it is used in the classroom and to refer to it from time to time for necessary information. I find that this has helped me a great deal in my studies.

SUZANNE HEFNER,
Coral Gables, Florida.

★ ★ ★

We would like to add some information to the article on "Ice Hockey" that appeared in the Nov. 29th issue. In 1945, a state-wide high school hockey tournament was begun in Minnesota and it is held each year in St. Paul. Eveleth High School has already won the championship twice, once in 1945 and again in 1948.

VI PERUNOVICH,
LUCY VLAJNICK,
Eveleth, Minnesota.

★ ★ ★

I fully support the admission of displaced persons to the United States. These people have been living under deplorable conditions for a number of years and deserve a chance to be happy again. I think that most of the refugees we accept will be worthy citizens and a distinct asset to our country.

MARGARET VAN NOTE,
Newton Highlands,
Massachusetts.

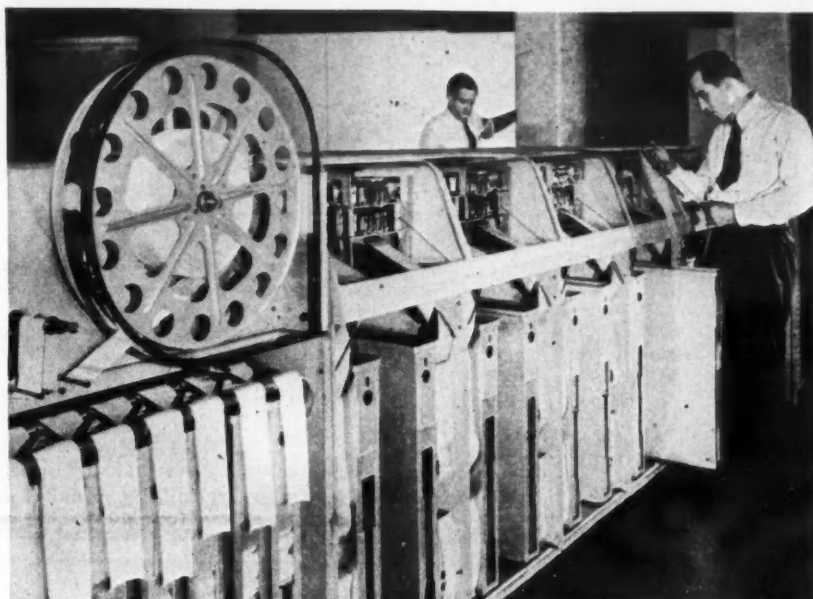
★ ★ ★

In my opinion, we should not allow the refugees in Europe to come to our country. I believe that everyone would be better off if these people remain where they are and if we just sent them food and clothing. In this way, we would help them to help themselves and build a better Europe.

MABEL TURNER,
Lyman, Utah.

★ ★ ★

(Address your letters to: Readers Say, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)



THIS MECHANICAL BOOKKEEPER will soon keep track of telephone calls in some of the nation's larger cities. As calls are made the machine punches a tape that shows the number called, the length of the conversation, and the rate charged. Bills are made up from the tape for the individual customers at the end of the month.

Science in the News

A GROUP of Australian and American scientists has returned to civilization after spending eight months in the wild bush country of northern Australia. A large collection of animals, fish, and birds was brought back—many of which have never been classified. A study was also made of the natives of this region—the primitive aborigines.

While exploring the caves found there, an ancient hatchet which dates back to the Stone Age was located. This is believed to be the first such relic ever found by an exploring party.

★ ★ ★

Hydrants which hold gasoline are being installed along the aprons of some airports, so that planes can be refueled from a hose which is carried on to the field in a cart. The tank trucks which are now used for refueling will not be needed.

This method has several advantages. Refueling time will be shortened, and fire hazards will be removed since large amounts of gasoline will not be in trucks on the field. The gasoline is fed into the hydrants from storage tanks which are located far in back of the runways.

★ ★ ★

Very soon the world's biggest and newest airliner will be in operation. The Boeing Stratocruiser will carry over 60 passengers, and will fly at a height of 25,000 feet. The 1½-million-dollar liner is like a huge flying hotel. It will have 16 berths for overnight passengers, a large-sized lounge, a snack bar, and a roomy kitchen.

The great planes have a cruising speed of 300 miles an hour—their top speed is 340 miles. This will mean that passengers can fly from New York to Tokyo in 18 hours, or from New York to Seattle in six and one-half hours.

★ ★ ★

Submarines have been handicapped by the fact that they must surface at least once a day in order to recharge their batteries. This process cannot be done while the U-boat is submerged because the fumes would kill the crew.

At the present time, the United States Navy is building six new "snorkel" submarines. The snorkel is a breathing device consisting of two

tubes which allows the boat to remain under the water indefinitely. Fresh air is taken in through one of the tubes, and exhaust fumes are expelled through the other. Although the snorkel-equipped sub is a great improvement over older types, part of the snorkel is visible from the surface and may be seen by the enemy.

Recently our Navy began experiments with new fuels and engines which can be used while submarines are completely submerged. The snorkel device will not be needed, for the U-boats will make their own oxygen. This means that no part of the U-boat will be seen above the water.

★ ★ ★

Whaling vessels from five nations are now in the Antarctic. It is expected that more than 20 thousand whales will be caught this season. The 17 "factory" ships will process the meat and oil, storing the products in great deep-freeze units on board the boats.

Social Know How

BILL GROUCHO can't understand why he wasn't invited to Saturday night's party. He is one of the best athletes in the school. This should assure him popularity, he thinks, but he doesn't seem to have it, and he sees no reason for his being shunned.

Everything has gone wrong today. At breakfast the toast was burned and he made a scene about it. Everyone else considered it a small matter, but to Bill it was vital.

At school, someone jostled him as he went down the hall to his first class and that didn't help matters. He was told by his history teacher that he had made C on last week's test. He considered the grade unfair and argued about it.

Everywhere Bill turns, something happens to irritate or anger him. It seems that people are always against him. Friends have advised him that the fault is his own, that he is too easily ruffled over trifles, that he lacks poise and a sense of humor. He has been told that disagreeable things

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are to be found on page 8, column 4.

1. Do you like a *garrulous* (gair'-you-lus) person? (a) gay (b) pretty (c) moody (d) talkative.

2. A *chivalrous* (shiv'al-rūs) person is: (a) courteous (b) talented (c) childish (d) irresponsible.

3. The actress wore a *tawdry* (taw-dri) costume in the play. (a) picturesque (b) expensive (c) old-fashioned (d) gaudy.

4. He told us the *gist* (jīst) of the story. (a) title (b) ending (c) main points (d) setting.

5. A *slothful* (slōth'full) person is: (a) slow and careful (b) jealous and hateful (c) sluggish and idle.

6. The play was a *farce*. (a) failure (b) success (c) ridiculous production (d) heavy tragedy.

7. She was a *docile* (dōs'il) child. (a) delicate and sensitive (b) gentle and manageable (c) proud and stubborn.

8. It was a *gala* (gā'lūh) day for the small town. (a) sad (b) costly (c) fearful (d) festive.

9. He was a *pretentious* (pre-ten'-shus) person. (a) scientific (b) healthy (c) gloomy (d) showy.

10. The manager of the firm had an *antipathy* (an-tip'a-thi) for new ideas. (a) dislike (b) fondness (c) fear (d) need.

11. She was a talented *linguist* (ling'gwist). (a) pianist and musician (b) poet and writer (c) expert on languages.

12. The man's *banal* (ba'nal) comments annoyed us. (a) insulting (b) commonplace (c) impulsive (d) sharp.

13. She had studied the *habitat* (hab'i-tat) of many birds. (a) natural location (b) food (c) flying speed (d) coloring.

come frequently into each person's path, and that poise is essential under such circumstances.

Why, added to all of Bill's other irritations, should there be this humiliation about not being invited to the party? He simply can't understand it.

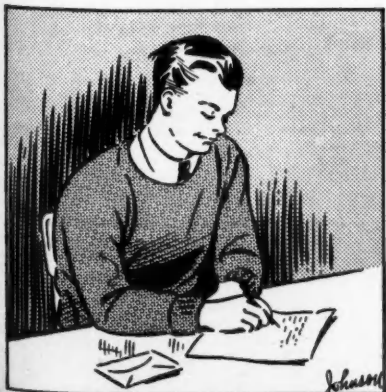
There are too many Bill Grouchos on the loose. Wherever they are or wherever they go, the atmosphere becomes tense and everyone present is under a strain. Needless to say, this sort of person is not on the road to popularity.

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Careers for Tomorrow - - The Therapist

OCCUPATIONAL therapists work with persons who have been disabled through illness or injury. Their efforts are directed chiefly toward restoring the use of the arm, leg, or other part of the body that has been affected. Therapists may also teach a patient skills that may help him to earn a living in spite of his disability, and they want to keep him constructively occupied so that he will not "brood" over his condition.

To accomplish these goals, the occupational therapist uses a broad range of activities such as woodworking, printing, leatherwork, ceramics, metal working, jewelry, and many others. Therapists always work under the direction of a doctor, but they use their own judgment to a large extent in deciding upon the exercises that will be of greatest benefit to a particular individual.

To enjoy work of this type, a person must have great self-control and like to work with people. Good health, a sense of humor, intelligence, and a liking for the activities one will teach—handicrafts, carpentry, and so on—are also essential.

Young men or women who want to prepare for this work may go directly from high school to one of the universities or schools that give training in the field, or they may take a liberal arts course in college before they specialize. Without a college degree, a therapist must spend from three to five years in training, depending on background. With a degree, one will have to spend only about 18 months getting the technical education.

In high school and in college, a prospective therapist should study biological sciences, art, typing, and handicrafts. The specialized training will include courses in anatomy, physiology, neurology, sociology, psychology, and psychiatry.

Occupational therapists are employed by private hospitals, by children's clinics, by the federal, state,

Salaries in the field vary somewhat. In a hospital, for instance, a beginning therapist may expect to earn about \$150 a month, plus room and meals, while experienced workers earn between \$200 and \$300 a month, plus maintenance. Therapists employed by the federal government are paid from \$3,000 to \$6,235 a year. Those working for state and local governments usually earn less than these amounts.

The need for trained occupational therapists is especially great right now. The general public has come to realize more and more that a disabled person can be rehabilitated and returned to a happy, useful life. And the war has brought in many injured servicemen who need the kind of treatment an occupational therapist gives.

A recent survey showed that there are about 3,000 therapists in hospitals throughout the country, while jobs are open for another 2,000. There is also need for therapists outside hospitals, in various types of community agencies, rehabilitation centers, and curative workshops.

An individual who does not like to work with handicapped people should not consider a career in this field. Those who would take pleasure, though, in helping disabled persons to overcome their injuries, will find the work challenging and satisfying.

Further information, together with a list of the schools that give training, can be secured from the Education Office, American Occupational Therapy Association, 33 West 42nd Street, New York 18, New York.

—BY CARRINGTON SHIELDS.



MEN AND WOMEN are needed as occupational therapists

and local governments, and by numerous other organizations that treat ill and disabled persons. On a typical routine, a therapist works with patients during the middle two-thirds of the day. In the early morning and late afternoons, he or she plans and prepares projects, makes reports, and consults with allied medical personnel such as doctors, nurses, social workers, and physical therapists.

Historical Backgrounds - - Facts About Congress

THE meeting of Congress in Washington this week recalls some interesting facts about the history of our national legislature. When Congress, in 1789, held its first session in New York City, there were only 22 Senators and 59 Representatives present. Two states, Rhode Island and North Carolina, had not yet ratified the Constitution and were not represented in Congress. Today there are 96 members in the Senate (two from each state) and 435 Representatives in the House, as well as three non-voting Representatives, one each from Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

Members of the first Congress were paid only six dollars a day while Congress was in session. Most of the lawmakers lived in rooming houses and ate their meals at various taverns

in the vicinity. Today the salary of a member of Congress is \$12,500 a year, plus an additional sum for traveling and office expenses.

During the early sessions of Congress, the members of the House of Representatives wore their hats during the sessions. They adopted this custom from the House of Commons in England where members wore their hats to show their independence of the King. But our legislators abandoned this practice more than 100 years ago.

The Constitution requires that Senators be at least 30 years of age, but two men have been elected to the Senate at the age of 29. In 1806, Henry Clay took the oath of office as Senator from Kentucky five months before his 30th birthday. More recently, Rush Holt of West Virginia was elected to

the Senate at the age of 29. He did not take the oath of office until he became 30 in order to avoid any dispute. In the last election, Russell Long of Louisiana was named to the Senate the day before he was 30.

Debates in Congress have sometimes been dull and at other times have been very exciting. The members are usually very courteous toward one another, but in time of crisis the debates become very heated. There have been occasions when fist fights have taken place on the floor of Congress. Just before the Civil War, when the slavery controversy was at its height, some members of Congress carried pistols.

For more than 100 years after the adoption of the Constitution, there were no women members of Congress. In most states women were not allowed to vote or hold office. But in 1917, Jeannette Rankin of Montana was elected to the House of Representatives, the first Congresswoman in our history. Since that time, many other women have taken their places in Congress. At present there are eight women legislators in the House of Representatives and one woman Senator, Mrs. Margaret Smith of Maine.

The amount of work done by Congress has increased greatly since 1789. There were only 268 bills introduced into the first Congress, but now the number of bills presented to each Congress usually exceeds 5,000. As our nation has grown in size and importance, the legislators' burdens have increased.

Study Guide

81st Congress

1. What does the Speaker of the House of Representatives do?
2. What is the job done by the majority and minority floor leaders?
3. What duty is performed by the party whips?
4. Explain briefly the work done by the committees in the two houses of Congress.
5. Can a tax bill be introduced in the House of Representatives? In the Senate?
6. Describe briefly the steps that are followed from the time a bill is introduced in Congress until it becomes a law.
7. List five important questions that will be discussed by the 81st Congress.

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not think that the committee system for handling bills introduced in Congress is a good one? Give your reasons.
2. What problem do you think is most important among those that will come before Congress? Explain.

Marshall Plan

1. What must nations in Europe promise to do before they can receive assistance under the Marshall Plan?
2. What provision is made in the European Recovery Act for safeguarding American business and agriculture? What provision is made concerning shipments of "strategic" materials to us?
3. Does ECA buy materials and distribute them among the European nations?
4. Must all purchases made under the European Recovery Program be made in this country?
5. What products were bought in greatest quantities during the early months of the program? What types of goods are being bought in increasing quantities now?
6. What explanation is given for Russia's opposition to the Marshall Plan?
7. Discuss briefly two accomplishments that are credited to the program.
8. Why is Congress soon to make a thorough study of the plan?

Discussion

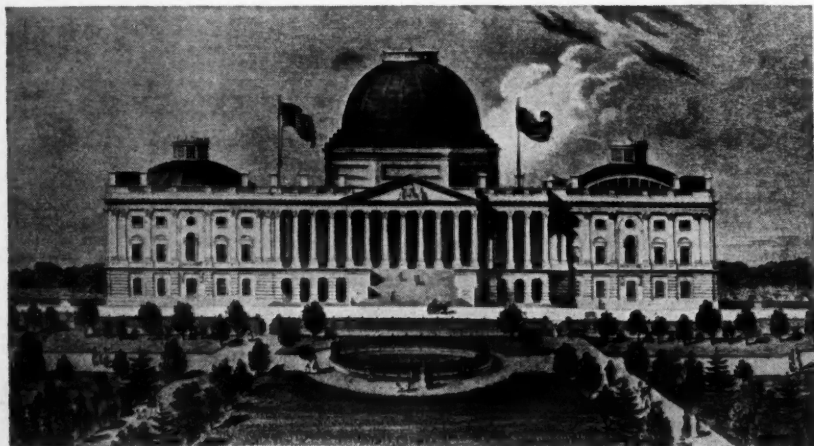
1. Which of the accomplishments credited to the Marshall Plan do you think is the most important? Give reasons for your answer.
2. On the basis of your present knowledge, do you or do you not think we should continue to help western Europe until the major goals of the Marshall Plan have been reached? Explain your position.

Miscellaneous

1. When and where will the next session of the UN General Assembly meet?
2. What proposal has Congressman Klein of New York made to get more Americans to cast their ballots in national elections?
3. How would high school graduates with outstanding records benefit under the provisions of a bill recently drawn up by a group of leading educators?
4. Give two reasons for the growing industrial importance of the West and the Southwest in recent years.
5. Why may the way in which the Costa Rica affair is handled have far-reaching effects on Pan-American relations?
6. Upon what product does Puerto Rico depend chiefly for its income?
7. Discuss briefly the early meetings of the U. S. Congress.

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (d) talkative; 2. (a) courteous; 3. (d) gaudy; 4. (c) main points; 5. (c) sluggish and idle; 6. (c) ridiculous production; 7. (b) gentle and manageable; 8. (d) festive; 9. (d) showy; 10. (a) dislike; 11. (c) expert on languages; 12. (b) commonplace; 13. (a) natural location.



THE CAPITOL as it was when Congress met in 1850

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